Gas Kinematics of Lyman α Emitters at $z \sim 2.2$

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Ly α Emitters (LAEs) are an important population of high-z star-forming galaxies in the context of galaxy formation. Additionally, LAEs are used to measure the neutral hydrogen fraction at the reionizing epoch, because Ly α photons are absorbed by intergalactic medium. However, Ly α emitting mechanism is not fully understood due to the highly-complex radiative transfer of Ly α in the interstellar medium.



Figure 1: Rest-frame Ly α EW as a function of $\Delta v_{Ly\alpha}$ and Δv_{IS} . Red symbols represent our $z \sim 2.2$ LAEs [2].

Ly α emissivity may not only depend on the spatial ISM distribution, but on the gas kinematics as well. The gas kinematics of LAEs has been evaluated from the Ly α velocity offset ($\Delta v_{Ly\alpha}$) with respect to the systemic redshift (z_{sys}) traced by nebular emission lines (e.g, [OIII]). Hashimoto et al. (2013) find an anti-correlation between Ly α equivalent width (EW) and $\Delta v_{Ly\alpha}$ [1]. However, $\Delta v_{Ly\alpha}$ is thought to increase with both resonant scattering in HI gas clouds as well as galactic outflow velocity. The gas kinematics can be investigated more directly from the velocity offset between interstellar (IS) absorption lines of the rest-frame UV continuum and z_{sys} (IS velocity offset; Δv_{IS}).

We present a statistical study of $\Delta v_{Ly\alpha}$ and Δv_{IS} for LAEs at $z \simeq 2$. We make a sample of 22 LAEs based on our deep Keck/LRIS observations, in conjunction with spectroscopic data from the Subaru/FMOS program and the literature [2,3]. We confirm the anti-correlation between Ly α EW and $\Delta v_{Ly\alpha}$ (Fig. 1). Our LRIS data successfully identify blue-shifted multiple IS absorption lines in the UV continua of four LAEs on an individual basis (Fig. 2). The average $\Delta v_{\rm IS}$ is $-200 \sim -300$ km s⁻¹, indicating LAE's gas outflow with a velocity comparable to typical LBGs. The results of our study suggest that LAEs have a small $N_{\rm HI}$ compared to LBGs.



Figure 2: Normalized UV spectra of the four continuum detected LAEs [2].

References

- [1] Hashimoto, T., et al.: 2013, ApJ, 765, 70.
- [2] Shibuya, T., et al.: 2014, ApJ, 788, 74.
- [3] Nakajima, K., et al.: 2012, ApJ, 745, 12.

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